

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 052827
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EUR/EE:CWSCHMIDT
L/M:MR. MALMBORG
EUR/P: BGEHRON
S/S- MR. BRIDGES

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SOFIA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 052827

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PINS, SHUM, TPHY, BU (MARINOV, STEFAN MARINOV)

SUBJECT: MARINOV CASE

REFS: (A) SOFIA 417; (B) SOFIA 272 AND PREVIOUS

1. FOLLOWING IS PROPOSED CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE REGARDING MARINOV CASE, SUBMITTED FOR EMBASSY COMMENT:

Q: DOES THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAVE ANY COMMENT REGARDING THE CLAIM BY A DISSIDENT BULGARIAN SCIENTIST, DR. STEFAN MARINOV MARINOV, THAT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN BULGARIA TURNED HIM OVER TO THE BULGARIAN AUTHORITIES AFTER HE APPROACHED THE EMBASSY FOR PROTECTION AND ASYLUM?

A: THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE VIEWS DR. MARINOV'S CHARGES AS CONFIDENTIAL

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A SERIOUS MATTER. WHILE OUR EMBASSIES DO NOT KEEP RECORDS OF EVERY VISITOR, OUR EXTENSIVE AND CAREFUL INVESTIGATION OF HIS CHARGES HAS SHOWN THAT DR. MARINOV VISITED OUR EMBASSY IN SOFIA, BULGARIA, SEVERAL TIMES, AND THAT ON AT LEAST ONE OCCASION HE DID REQUEST POLITICAL ASYLUM. HOWEVER, HE WAS TOLD THAT, AS IS THE CASE IN ALL EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, THE AMERICAN EMBASSY WAS NOT IN A POSITION

TO RESPOND TO SUCH REQUESTS FROM HOST COUNTRY NATIONALS,
AND THAT THEREFORE NOTHING COULD BE DONE TO ASSIST HIM IN

THAT RESPECT.

IN OUR INVESTIGATION OF THIS MATTER, WE HAVE ALSO DETERMINED THAT THE BULGARIAN AUTHORITIES WERE NEITHER INFORMED OF DR. MARINOV'S PRESENCE NOR REQUESTED TO TAKE HIM INTO CUSTODY BY ANY OFFICERS AT THE EMBASSY. (NOTE: THIS STATEMENT ASSUMES THAT QUERY SENT TO DAVID FISCHER VIA SEPTTEL WILL NOT TURN UP ANY NEW INFORMATION.)

Q: HAS THE DEPARTMENT TAKEN A POSITION ON DR. MARINOV'S REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL COMPENSATION FOR DAMAGES AS A RESULT OF THE INCIDENT?

A: THE DEPARTMENT HAS NOT TAKEN ANY POSITION ON THIS QUESTION SINCE NO FORMAL CLAIM HAS BEEN SUBMITTED. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT ANY FORMAL CLAIM FOR COMPENSATION IN THIS INSTANCE COULD BE APPROVED AS MORE THAN TWO YEARS HAVE PASSED SINCE THE DATE OF THE ALLEGED INCIDENT. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE APPLICABLE U.S. LAWS, THE USG COULD ACCEPT LIABILITY IN SUCH A CASE ONLY TO THE EXTENT THAT A PRIVATE INDIVIDUAL OR BUSINESS WOULD BE LIABLE UNDER THE SAME CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER THE LAWS OF THE COUNTRY WHERE THE INCIDENT OCCURRED, I.E., OF BULGARIA.

Q: DOES THE DEPARTMENT HAVE ANY INFORMATION REGARDING DR. MARINOV PERSONALLY OR HIS SCIENTIFIC CREDENTIALS?
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A: WE UNDERSTAND THAT DR. MARINOV WAS AT ONE TIME A MEMBER OF THE BULGARIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES. AS YOU MAY BE AWARE, THE DOCTOR WORKS IN AN AREA OF HIGHLY ADVANCED THEORETICAL PHYSICS. THE QUESTION OF VALIDITY OF HIS WORK IS ONE WHICH MUST BE LEFT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY.

Q: CAN YOU CONFIRM THAT DR. MARINOV WAS HELD IN A MENTAL INSTITUTION? AND IF HE IN FACT WAS HELD, WAS IT FOR HIS POLITICAL VIEWS?

A: WE ARE NOT ABLE TO COMMENT KNOWLEDGEABLY ABOUT DR. MARINOV'S POSSIBLE IMPRISONMENT, OR THE GROUNDS FOR SUCH IMPRISONMENT.

2. DEPARTMENT AGREES WITH EMBASSY'S STATEMENT IN PARA 7 REF (B) EXPRESSING CONCERN OVER POSSIBLE MISINTERPRETATION OF ANY SUCH LETTER GIVEN TO MARINOV. EMBASSY

SHOULD SIMPLY INFORM MARINOV THAT USG CAN NOT ACT UPON HIS CLAIM BECAUSE OF COMPLETE INABILITY TO CONFIRM THAT INCIDENT OCCURRED AS HE CLAIMS, OR THAT IF IT OCCURRED THAT USG WAS LIABLE IN ANY WAY FOR MARINOV'S INCARCERA-

TION BY BULGARIAN AUTHORITIES. NO RPT NO LETTER SHOULD BE GIVEN TO MARINOV.

3. EMBASSY'S COMMENTS REQUESTED ON POSSIBILITY OF OUR ASSISTING MARINOV IN PUBLISHING HIS BOOK BY REFERRING HIM TO US OR OTHER PUBLISHERS WHO MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN SUCH MATERIAL, OR TO APPROPRIATE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION SUCH AS UNESCO.

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